

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-05 H-02
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6492

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 22295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PARIS -

MATCH ARTICLE ON CONCORDE

1. "WHAT REPRISAL FOR CONCORDE?" IS SUBJECT OF ARTICLE IN AUGUST 5 ISSUE OF PARIS-MATCH. BASIS FOR ARTICLE IS GISCARD'S STATEMENT IN RECENT NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW (PARIS 20704) THAT HE HAS ALREADY DECIDED WHAT RETALIATORY ACTION GOF SHOULD TAKE AGAINST US IN EVENT OF NEGATIVE DECISION FOR CONCORDE AT NEW YORK. PARIS-MATCH INTERVIEWED PCF, SOCIALIST, AND CGT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS ANDRE TURCAT, FORMER CHIEF TEST PILOT FOR CONCORDE PROJECT AND NOW ADVISER TO CHIRAC IN THE RPR, AND CONCLUDED THAT CERTAIN FORMS OF RETALIATION THAT HAD BEEN PROPOSED -- E.G. BOYCOTT OF US CARRIER AIRCRAFT OR JUST OF BOEINGS, DENUNCIATION AND RENEGOTIATION OF US-FRANCE CIVAIR BILATERAL-ARE SIMPLY NOT PRACTICAL OR REALISTIC.

2. PARIS-MATCH CLAIMS IN THE ARTICLE TO HAVE BEEN TOLD AT THE ELYSEE THAT GISCARD IS CONVINCED THAT THE NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY'S ATTITUDE IS THE RESULT OF SYSTEMATIC DE-UNCLASSIFIED

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LAYING TACTICS ENCOURAGED BY US CARRIERS AT THE EXPENSE OF AIR FRANCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS. IN VIEW OF THE PROBLEMS OF TAKING RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST THE US IN THE AERONAUTICAL FIELD, GISCARD IS SAID TO PREFER TAKING SPECIFIC ACTION IN SOME OTHER FIELD. A SENIOR OFFICIAL AT THE ELYSEE, NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED, IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THERE ARE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MEANS THAT

ARE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE FOR COMBATting AMERICAN PROTECTIONISM". WHAT GISCARD HAS IN MIND, ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, IS TO MANIFEST FRENCH DISPLEASURE WITH US IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES - FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS (TOKYO ROUND) LATER THIS YEAR. (SEA PARA. 6 PARIS 21280). PROBLEM, HOWEVER, FOR PARIS-MATCH IS HOW FAR GOF COULD PLAY THIS DISRUPTIVE GAME WITHOUT HURTING FRANCE'S OWN INTERESTS, SINCE FRANCE REMAINS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND HENCE VULNERABLE TO COUNTER-PRESSURE FROM THE US SIDE.
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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